

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W
-----090087 140250Z /23

R 121340Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9195
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF, PLO, IS, US
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST PEACE: SHIFTS IN KUWAITI EDITORIAL
REACTION

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE ACCELERATING RATE OF PUBLIC PRONOUN-
CEMENTS AND SECRET CONSULTATION AMONG THE PARTIES INVOLVED
IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, KUWAITI EDITORIALISTS
HAVE CHANGED THEIR TUNE SOMEWHAT RECENTLY. UP UNTIL
LATE SEPTEMBER, THESE WRITERS (PARTLY PALESTINIANS
RESIDENT IN KUWAIT) EXPRESSED A UNIFORMLY KNEE-JERK
REJECTIONIST LINE. THEY CONSISTENTLY EXCORIATED BOTH
THE US AND ISRAEL AND THEY WERE UNBURDENED BY DOUBTS
ABOUT "FACTS" AND FREE OF ANY NEED TO ADJUST THEIR
TONE TO CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. DURING THE PAST 10 DAYS OR SO, HOWEVER, CERTAIN
EVENTS AND STATEMENTS HAVE BEGUN TO SINK IN, AND TWO NEW
REACTIONS ARE EVIDENT IN THEIR WRITINGS. THE MOST MARKED
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OF THESE REACTIONS IS CONFUSION. UNWILLING, ON THE
EVIDENCE SO FAR, TO CONCLUDE THAT USG HAS FUNDAMENTALLY
ALTERED WHAT THE EDITORS HAVE CONSIDERED AN IMMUTABLE
AMERICAN PRO-ISRAELI, ANTI-PALESTINIAN POLICY, THE WRITERS
PROFESS TO BE BAFFLED BY USG MANEUVERS. THEY ASSERT THAT
PRESENT US POLICY INDEED RAISES ARAB HOPES, BUT THEY
INSIST THAT IT DOES NOT YET CONTAIN ANYTHING "REAL" FOR

THE ARABS. EDITORIAL ATTACKS ON ISRAEL CONTINUE UNDIMINISHED, BUT US POLICY GOALS ARE NOW SEEN AS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY, RATHER THAN AS ESTABLISHED, OFT-REPEATED AND FAMILIAR EVILS. THE UNEXPECTEDLY VOCAL ISRAELI HOSTILITY TOWARD THE US-SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE MAIN BASIS FOR SUCH CONFUSION, BUT THE FOLLOWING FACTORS HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED: DAYAN'S REPORTED SECRET TALKS WITH ARAB LEADERS; THE TORRENT OF USG POLICY PRO-NOUNCEMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS; AND THE RECENT INTENSIVE BUT LARGELY SECRET MIDDLE EAST CONSULTATIONS AT THE UNGA AND IN WASHINGTON.

3. ANOTHER NEW SLANT IN EDITORIAL COMMENT HERE IS AN EXPRESSED FEAR THAT IF US POLICY HAS, IN FACT, CHANGED TOWARD THE ARABS IT MAY CHANGE BACK AGAIN, BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC US PRESSURES. THE PERCEIVED DAGGER HERE IS DESCRIBED AS THE "ZIONIST INFLUENCE" OR THE "ZIONIST FORCES" IN THE US WHICH SEVERAL WRITERS PREDICT WILL TRY TO STYMIE OR EMBARRASS PERSONALLY, AND THEREFORE WEAKEN, THE PRESIDENT.

4. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, THE LOCAL PALESTINIAN EDITORIALISTS CONTINUE TO BEAT THEIR FAVORITE DEAD HORSES, ARAB DISUNITY, ISRAELI BARBARISM, ETC.
MAESTRONE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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